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Microsoft Press
**Computer
Dictionary**

Third Edition

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Microsoft Press

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ABC
Serifs
ABC

Serif. A serif typeface (top) and a sans serif typeface (bottom).

serif² \sâr'îf\ *n.* Any of the short lines or ornaments at the ends of the strokes that form a typeface character.

server \sâr'vâr\ *n.* **1.** On a local area network (LAN), a computer running administrative software that controls access to the network and its resources, such as printers and disk drives, and provides resources to computers functioning as workstations on the network. **2.** On the Internet or other network, a computer or program that responds to commands from a client. For example, a file server may contain an archive of data or program files; when a client submits a request for a file, the server transfers a copy of the file to the client. *See also* client/server architecture. *Compare* client (definition 3).

server-based application \sâr'vâr-bâsd a-plâ-kâ-shân\ *n.* A program that is shared over a network. The program is stored on the network server and can be used at more than one client machine at a time.

server cluster \sâr'vâr klu'stâr\ *n.* A group of independent computers that work together as a single system. A server cluster presents the appearance of a single server to a client.

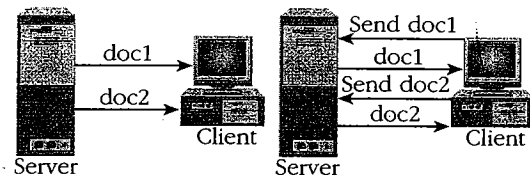
server error \sâr'vâr âr'âr\ *n.* A failure to complete a request for information through HTTP that results from an error at the server rather than an error by the client or the user. Server errors are indicated by HTTP status codes beginning with 5. *See also* HTTP, HTTP status codes.

server push-pull \sâr'vâr pōōsh'pul', pōōl\ *n.* A combination of Web client/server techniques individually called "server push" and "client pull." In server push, the server loads data to the client, but

the data connection stays open. This allows the server to continue sending data to the browser as necessary. In client pull, the server loads data to the client, but the data connection does not stay open. The server sends an HTML directive to the browser telling it to reopen the connection after a certain interval to get more data or possibly to open a new URL. *See the illustration. See also* HTML, server (definition 2), URL.

Server push

Client pull



Server push-pull

server-side includes \sâr'vâr-sîd in-klōōdz\ *n.*

A mechanism for including dynamic text in World Wide Web documents. Server-side includes are special command codes that are recognized and interpreted by the server; their output is placed in the document body before the document is sent to the browser. Server-side includes can be used, for example, to include the date/time stamp in the text of the file. *See also* server (definition 2).

service \sâr'vâs\ *n.* **1.** A customer-based or user-oriented function, such as technical support or network provision. **2.** In reference to programming and software, a program or routine that provides support to other programs, particularly at a low (close to the hardware) level. *See also* utility.

Service Advertising Protocol \sâr'vâs ad'vâr-tî-zēng prō'tâ-kol\ *n.* A method used by a service-providing node in a network (such as a file server or application server) to notify other nodes on the network that it is available for access. When a server boots, it uses the protocol to advertise its service; when the same server goes offline, it uses the protocol to announce that it is no longer available. *Acronym:* SAP (S`A-P`). *See also* server (definition 1).

service bureau \sâr'vis byâr'ōl\ *n.* **1.** A company that provides various services related to publishing, such as prepress production, desktop pub-